



AURORA ACADEMIC  
CHARTER SCHOOL



AURORA ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL

# Middle School Newsletter

WELCOME  
BACK  
TO SCHOOL



September 2020

# September 2019

## AURORA

The Aurora Academic Middle School Newsletter

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The Aurora Middle School Newsletter is published at the beginning of each month

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# September 2020

## From the Acting Principal

It will be a year that we will not forget easily. The school was busy since the spring planning and putting in place steps to ensure the safety and health of students and staff. We sent out information only when needed and carefully spread apart to avoid too many emails. As we are one of the first schools to open in August, Aurora Charter School wants to set a good example of how a school focuses on safety and health first while successfully delivering curriculum to all of our students - both learning in school and learning at home.

Many things are being tried for the first time, from mandatory masks to individual Chromebooks for every student. We will continue to refine procedures throughout the coming weeks as required when situations change or need updating. The school remains committed to the families under our care and we will continue to work with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education to ensure that the best practices are put in place for the continuing success of our students. Please continue to check your email often for updates as things can change with short notice.

We welcome everyone back to an unprecedented start of the year and look forward to continuing a fruitful year, despite the challenges we are going to face. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



**Peter Dang**  
Acting  
Principal  
Middle School

## From the Acting Superintendent:



**Janet  
Rockwood**  
Acting Superintendent

We are excited for the 2020-2021 school year. We are committed to ensuring the safety and health of all students, staff, and families. Our dedicated staff will help kids to learn, smile, and belong. We are, as we have always been, here to provide the best learning environment and experience possible for all of our learners.

Everyone's safety in our learning community continues to be our priority; it is the core of all of our decisions, protocols, and actions. The Aurora Academic Charter School COVID-19 School Re-entry Plan and Handbook was developed with our school community and follows provincial guidelines and requirements. The handbook describes strategies, details, procedures, cleaning protocols, and health measures for our parents, students, staff and community stakeholders. This document can be found on our website along with other resources, and I encourage you to refer to them for answers and guidance as we work together for a successful year.

We also recognize that in-person classes might not be the right choice for some of our families. That is why we were pleased to offer the choice for at-home learning. We welcome these students back to school as well. You are just as much a part of our Aurora family.

I wish everyone a healthy and happy school year.

# September 2020

## School Info

### Operation Education Fundraiser



Operation Education Fundraiser is a cooperative fundraiser that partners local schools with Boston Pizza restaurants to earn cash back. Staff, students and families can dine at any Northern Alberta Boston Pizza and help their school earn 5% cash back on the pre-tax total of submitted receipts.

1. Eat at Boston Pizza between September 1, 2020 and June 26, 2021
2. Save your receipts
3. Submit your receipts to Mrs. Bali or Mrs. Joblinski by June 26, 2021

Last year Aurora Middle School collected over \$5000 in Boston Pizza receipts.

*It's as simple as save and eat!*

***Board Meetings*** are held on the third Wednesday of each month and are held on line in compliance with social distancing regulations.

***Meetings begin at 6:30pm.***

*The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2020.*



### Upcoming PD Day

#### Monday, September 21

Is a scheduled professional development day for teachers.

There is no school for students on this day.

### TOP MARKS UNIFORM EXCHANGES

**Due to COVID-19, all Top Marks customer service dates have been cancelled**

**Use the return form found in your uniform order package for exchanges.**

**Call Top Marks Customer Service Dept. at 1-800-667-7105 ext 239 if you have any questions regarding uniform orders or exchanges.**

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## Meet the Middle School Staff

Our annual Meet the Staff Night had to be cancelled this year with the ongoing health situation. Aurora Middle School staff remains committed to the success and safety of our community. It will be a challenging year but we will get through it together! We are best available for communication by email but please allow at least 2 business days for a response as teachers get very busy. Our email addresses are available on the school's website at [www.auroraschool.ca](http://www.auroraschool.ca) → Our School → Teachers.

Teacher	Homeroom
Duncan Charlton	5A
Taylor Ryan	5B
James Hwang	5C
Ron Ceilin	5D
Jen O'Connor	6A
Jaymie Curilla	6B
Rosalina Gieni	6C
Nicole Cadrin	6D
Melissa Murray	7D
Sam Chau	7B
Monique Wilson	7C
Jacqueline Tomkow	7A
Jessica Wong	8B
Octavia Drabot	8A
Brittany Monteith	8C
Cecilia Tomko	8D
Vicki Leong	9D
Clint Millard	9B
Amanda Joblinski	9C
Kelly Laffin	9A
Kaylie Glasman	
Rubina Senghera	
Olivia Meyer	
Peter Dang	Acting Principal
Ian Gray	Assistant Principal
Susan Mallory	Head Secretary
Sanjana Bali	Receptionist
Amanda Poitras	Librarian
Marla Leganchuk	Secretary-Treasurer
Lisa Weidel	Transportation Coordinator



# September 2020

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## Welcome Jaymie Curilla

I am very excited to join the Aurora Academic Charter School team this year. I feel passionate about creating a learning environment where each student feels empowered to reach their highest potential. I am here to support my students and their families to ensure their needs are met and goals are achieved this upcoming year.

I started off my career as a Registered Nurse working at the Stollery Children's Hospital. After several years working in bedside and management roles, I decided to return to school and pursue a career in education. Upon my return to University, I took my first Calculus course and immediately I was hooked. I loved the feeling and work involved with finding a solution to a complex mathematical problem. My goal is to inspire students to see the potential in science and math related careers and help them appreciate how these subjects impact their daily lives.



## Welcome Kaylie Glasman



Hello! For those of you who don't know me, I am new to Aurora and will be teaching jr. high Options and Health until the end of December. I graduated with an Education degree from Ambrose University with an undergrad in Behavioural Science.

When I'm not teaching, you could probably find me enjoying the outdoors, experimenting with new recipes, or relaxing with friends.

This first week of school has been a bit of a curveball for everyone, but I am so excited to be a part of the supportive Aurora community.

# September 2020

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## Welcome Taylor Ryan



I'm so excited to be teaching at Aurora again! I was in the art room last year and made tons of great memories with my students. Although I will miss working with paint and clay and all the other fun art materials, I am very happy to be teaching English Language Arts in Grade 5.

I love to read, sit on the deck with my cat, Ashes, and draw in my sketchbook whenever I can. My favorite book is "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt and my favorite artist is Andy Dixon.

## Welcome Olivia Meyer



My name is Miss Meyer and I am from Medicine Hat, Alberta, and recently moved to Edmonton. This year at Aurora Academic Charter School I will be teaching grade 6 Science and Health, as well as the junior high technology class. I am currently entering my fifth year of teaching since receiving my Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Education from the University of Lethbridge.

My passion for science and education are the main reasons I became a teacher. I coached gymnastics for over 13 years and was involved in a variety of sports. I love to learn and share new things when it comes to how the world works. I also enjoy being outdoors, cooking, and being active.

I look forward to joining and growing with the Aurora family!

# September 2020

**Keep Our Kids Safe and Traffic Easy!!**



## Family Zone Updates

**Parents please make sure you have updated any changes to your contact information such as address or phone numbers, along with any updates to medical information such as allergies, etc. on Family Zone.**



# September 2020

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## Options

**Term 1 Option: Applied Digital Skills**

**All grade 7—9 students will be taking Applied Digital Skills in Term 1.**



Please note that Aurora is a peanut “AWARE” school! If at all possible please try to avoid sending anything that may contain nuts in your child’s lunch.

## **YEARBOOKS (2019-2020)**

Middle School yearbooks for the 2019-2020 school year have arrived!

If you are a student attending classes at-school, you have already received your yearbook at school.

If you are not at-school, please arrange with the school office to pick up your copy. The school office will contact students that have ordered a yearbook as well.

## **Immunization Schedule**

- **October 28 and 29 (all day)**  
Grade 6 students and missed students only
- **March 17 (all day)**  
Grade 9 students only
- **April 28 (all day)**  
Grade 6 students only

# September 2020

## Drop-off and Pick-up location

Middle School families are reminded that morning drop-off and pick-up for Middle School students are in the east field to minimize contact with Elementary students and families.

**Use front doors only after 8:30am!**



Change in plan for pick up after school: Parents should communicate with their kids before coming to school about pick up plans, to take the bus or not to take the bus, and any other changes to normal routines. Calls in the middle of the day interrupts classes and some messages may not get to the student on time.

If you must make changes to your children's pick-up time, Study Period, bus arrangements, etc. please write a note in their homework books and show it to the teacher or Principal.

If it is an emergency, we ask that you phone the office **before 2:00 p.m.** as the office is unable to ensure that messages are delivered if they are later than this time.

A note in their agenda with special arrangements regarding early pick up (appointments etc.) will enable teachers to plan accordingly for your child to be at the main office for you to pick them up before 3:10 p.m.

Student pick up in the middle of the day for appointments or any other reason — please ring the door bell and wait for Mrs. Bali to come. **Students will NOT be waiting in the lobby and they will only be called once the parents get here.**

The playground is not supervised after school and students are not allowed to wait there for parents to come pick them up.

Middle School students who are not staying for Study Period must be picked before 3:25pm or else they will be asked to attend Study Period for the rest of the Term 1. All students waiting for rides must be picked by 3:45pm as there is no more teacher supervision at that point. Please be sure to make appropriate arrangements before leaving for school each day.

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## FORGOTTEN ITEMS AT HOME

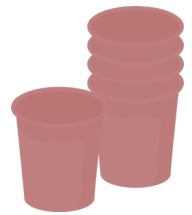


Forgotten things at home such as lunches, water bottles, backpacks, homework, agendas, etc. brought to the school during the day **will not** be accepted at the school due to COVID-19 safety measures.



Please do not forget to pack eating utensils.

Disposable cups will be given to students to use for the day if they forget their water bottles.



Emergency snack kits will be provided at the office to students who forget their lunch kits.

It is important that students tell their teachers or Mrs. Bali if they forgot something important at home so that we can help the student stay healthy and safe.

# TRANSPORTATION

## Transportation Reminders for 2020 – 2021



- Students waiting at a stop are encouraged to social distance from other students/families at the same stop while waiting for the bus.
- Families will sit together on the bus, regardless of age or grade and according to their stop number.
- Students will have designated seats in the morning and afternoon. They will not be allowed to move about or switch seats on the bus.
- As students board the bus in the AM they will be seated at the back of the bus and fill to the front. (First student/family will sit at the back of the bus, last student/family will be near the front of the bus.)
- Upon bus arrival at school, students will be directed by the driver to unload from front to back, one seat at a time.
- In the afternoon, students/families will line up outside the bus in an organized and social distanced manner and will be directed by the driver to load the bus.
- Buses will be sanitized before and after the morning route and before and after the afternoon route.
- Students are expected to wear face masks at all times on the school bus for all students Grade K-9 and the driver will sanitize their hands before entering the school bus.
- No eating or drinking allowed on the bus. Water is allowed.



**EZ EnRoute bus tracking app is available to download, contact Lisa Weidel @lweidel@auroraschool.ca for assistance.**



# September 2020

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## Alternate Dress Days

August through December 2020

\*bottoms for each day need to be uniform pants, blue jeans, or navy/black bottoms

### September

- Friday, September 18 - Casual Dress
- Wednesday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day

### October

- Friday, October 9 - Fall Leaves (red, orange, yellow, brown)
- Friday, October 30 - Halloween (orange, black, purple, green)

### November

- Tuesday, November 10 - Remembrance Day (formal dress uniform, poppies)
- Thursday, November 19 - Pink Shirt Day

### December

- Friday, December 4 - Let It Snow Day (snowflakes, silver, white, grey, blues)
- Thursday, December 17 - Holiday Spirit Day (red, green, white)

\*Wednesday, December 16 - Staff Holiday Sweater Day

# STUDENT ILLNESS

Parents are required to assist students to perform a self-assessment using the checklist provided each morning before leaving the house. Should they display any of the symptoms below, they are to stay home, inform the school secretary, and follow the instructions on the information sheet below provided by the Alberta Health Services.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

# Student illness

## If a student has COVID-19 symptoms

Students with symptoms must not attend school. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies, chronic cough), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before returning to school.

Anyone that reports symptoms must stay home and seek health care advice as appropriate. Parents can call Health Link 811 or their primary health care practitioner, and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if their child should be tested.

Parents, household members, and contacts of a student who has symptoms but is not a COVID-19 case, are not required to quarantine.

Only the people identified as close contacts of an individual who is a case of COVID-19 need to quarantine. The contacts of the close contacts do not need to quarantine.

### Book a test

Book a testing appointment online with the AHS assessment tool or call Health Link 811. <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

### Symptoms

You should get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptom.

If you have any of these symptoms you are [legally required to isolate for at least 10 days](#) from the start of your symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer:

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

If you have any of these other symptoms, stay home and minimize your contact with others until your symptoms resolve:

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

Monitor your child's health and call [Health Link 811](#) if you have questions or concerns. Call 911 immediately if experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, including difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, feelings of confusion or loss of consciousness.

For more information: [alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

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# STUDENT ILLNESS – continued

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

### Isolation requirements

#### Albertans with symptoms

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.
- The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.
- Tested positive for COVID-19
- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

#### Have symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of your exposure.
- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

#### Close contacts of confirmed cases

- You are legally required to quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (provides care, lives with or has close physical contact without appropriate use of personal protective equipment, or comes into direct contact with infectious body fluids).
- If you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

### If you are self-isolating:

- Stay home — do not go to school, work, social events or any other public areas or community settings.
- Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- Do not use public transportation or ride sharing.
- Do not go for walks in public places. This includes children in mandatory self-isolation.
- If you go outside, you must remain on private property not accessible by others.

### If a student has symptoms related to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition

- The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result.
- These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school.
- Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition.

#### Note

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, information regarding COVID-19 will be updated as required. Please check online for the latest information and links to testing, symptoms and isolation requirements: [alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

For more information: [alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)

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# STUDENT ILLNESS - continued

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

### Screening Questionnaire

#### COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS/STUDENTS MUST USE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE DAILY TO DECIDE IF THE STUDENT SHOULD ATTEND SCHOOL**

The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior entering school daily. If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to attend school. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

#### Screening Questions

1.	Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following	CIRCLE ONE	
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

\* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

\*\* 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above



# September 2020

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## SCHOOL COUNCIL AND AURORA FUNDRAISING SOCIETY MESSAGE

### Welcome Back Aurora Family!

The School Council and the Fundraising Society is excited to be back for the 2020/2021 school year!

To start of the year right we will be having our Annual General Meeting for both the School Council and the Aurora Fundraising Society (AFS). The meeting will be online on September 23, 2020 starting at 6:00pm. These are the following positions that will be open:

**School Council:**

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Treasurer  
Sectary

**AFS:**

Vice president

You can see the agenda online: <https://www.auroraschool.ca/school-council>

Please join our Facebook group for reminders and information that we post, just search “Aurora School Council” and ask to join!

We hope to see you all there!

You can also email us if you have questions or concerns at:

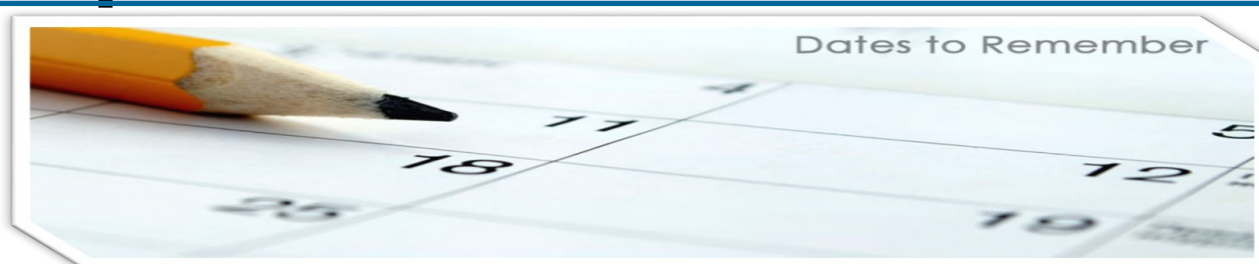
[schoolcouncil@auroraschool.ca](mailto:schoolcouncil@auroraschool.ca)

or

[fundraising@auroraschool.ca](mailto:fundraising@auroraschool.ca)

# September 2020

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## September

- 16 Board of Directors' Meeting (Virtual)..... 6:30 p.m.
- 21 Professional Development Day—No School
- 23 School Council, Aurora Fundraising  
Society (AFS) Meeting & AGM (virtual) ..... 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Alternative Dress Day (casual dress)
- 30 Alternative Day (orange shirt day)

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**[ [www.auroraschool.ca](http://www.auroraschool.ca) ]**



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*All Hard Work Yields a Profit!*